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FRIENDS OUTSIDE

In Contra Costa

A Crime Prevention Agency Working With Jail and Prison Inmates and Their Families

1127 Escobar Street

Martinez, California 94553

(510) 228-0644

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August 25, 1994

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West County Justice Center

Sheriff Warren Rupf
651 Pine Street, 7th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Billed Party Preference CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Sheriff Rupf,

It has come to the attention of FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa County that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering a proposal called "Billed Party Preference" to change the method by which long distance telephone companies are selected for operator-assisted calls (including collect calls from jails). "Billed Party Preference" (BPP) will prevent inmate phone service providers from carrying the calls generated at the jails - with no revenues from those collect calls, there will be no inmate phone service commissions which are a major source of revenue to the Inmate Welfare Fund.

The Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) contracts with local non-profits and other service providers for educational and human service programs which benefit the inmates and, as a consequence, also their families.

Last year FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa County serviced over 8,500 inmate requests. In total, between our two programs (Family Services and Detention Services), we responded to over 9,800 client contacts. That figure represents an increase of 14% over the 8,500 contacts in 1992 and a 44% increase in services over the 6,800 contacts we responded to in 1991.

I know that you are aware of the value of the services our organization provides to your department. My concern is for the thousands of men, women, and children in our county who will not receive our help if the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) is depleted of a major source of revenue - thereby canceling the opportunity for contracted services with FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa.

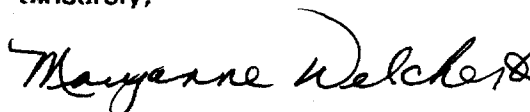
The passage of the "Billed Party Preference" by the FCC would in fact do just that - deplete the IWF of a major revenue source. The IWF contracted services are a sound way of dealing with inmates

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educational and human service needs - at no cost to the taxpayers (since these are not state or county funds). These services are provided without depleting the Sheriff's Department budget as well.

On behalf of the thousands of men, women, and children we work with each and every year, I urge you to do what you can to ensure that the local telephone service provider used by our county jails, does not lose out through the proposed "Billed Party Preference" currently being considered by the FCC. The cost to that business would be tremendous, but the cost to the community, through potential loss of IWF contracted services, would be devastating.

Sincerely,



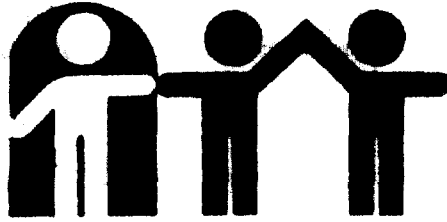
Maryanne P. Welchert
Development Director

cc: The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission

Honorable James Quello, Commissioner
Honorable Andrew Barrett, Commissioner ✓
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner
Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner

Congressman George Miller
Congressman William Baker

Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein



FRIENDS OUTSIDE
in
Contra Costa County
(A Crime Prevention/Crisis Intervention Agency)

*serving the needs
of the local community
for over 25 years*

The mission of FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa is to assist incarcerated and/or formerly incarcerated persons and their families with the immediate and long term adverse effects of incarceration; and, to act as a bridge between those we serve, the community at large, and the criminal justice system.

In 1993, FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa responded to over 2,800 client contacts, each one generating multiple types of services to men/women/children within the county (an increase in services of 14% over 1992 and 44% over 1991).

*office hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00 - 3:00*

***1127 Escobar St.
Martinez, CA 94553***

***(510)
228-0644***

FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa is a crime prevention/crisis intervention agency serving the needs of the community since 1969.

We are here:

- *when families/individuals find themselves in a time of crisis because a family member is in the criminal justice system;*
- *to show that support and alternatives are available;*
- *to put people in touch with the services they need to get on with their lives;*
- *helping families/individuals/inmates/ex-offenders become more self sufficient and responsible;*
- *to assist those who want our help and those who need our services.*

FRIENDS OUTSIDE in Contra Costa currently operates two programs:

FAMILY SERVICES: *working with the needs, fears, and concerns of families/individuals who have a family member in the criminal justice system...*

- *emergency food/clothing* • *homeless issues* • *drug/alcohol rehabilitation referrals* • *job training information* • *support group* • *eligible clients are served in the office and on the phone* • *information available on family violence issues, grief & conflict resolutions, child abuse and drug issues, supports available to help families/individuals better their lives* • *special Christmas programs*

DETENTION SERVICES: *provides services to inmates who are incarcerated within the Contra Costa County detention system...*

- *responds directly to inmate requests* • *contacts and relay messages between inmates and family members in emergency situations* • *refers requests to other appropriate jail programs (mental health, medical, library, chaplain, education)* • *interfaces with social service agencies in emergency situations (i.e. Welfare, Unemployment, AFDC, Section 8, Child Protective Services)* • *contacts lawyers, public defenders, probation officers, etc. within the criminal justice system* • *verifies entitlement to and cashes authorized checks for inmates* • *purchases approved items not on jail commissary with inmate's funds* • *provides clothing for jury trial and/or release* • *distributes donated greeting cards*